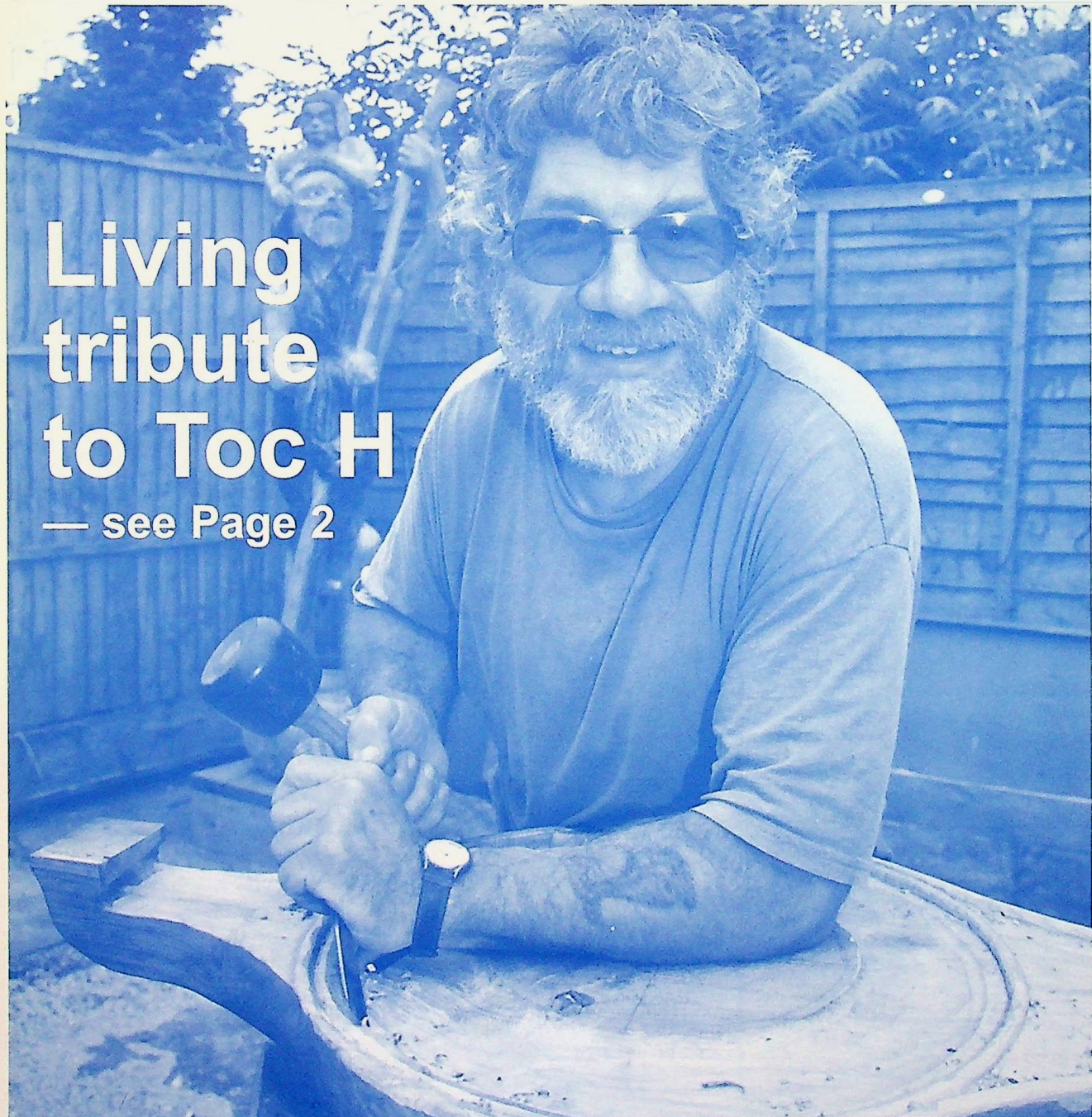


Inside

£300,000 grant for caring	Page 2
Welcoming strangers	Page 3
Volunteering - special report	Pages 4 & 5
Scotland boost	Page 4
Welcoming new members	Page 6

'Three cheers to Toc H
and its members'
says Sir Jimmy
— Back page

'Toc H relevant
today as when it
was founded'
says Archbishop
— Page 3



Living
tribute
to Toc H
— see Page 2

News in brief

Branch rebirth

Greetings from South Africa have been sent to Point 3, with news of the golden anniversary celebrations of Fish Hoek branch in the Western Province, which was started in 1953 as a women's group. The oldest member is 93 and for many years made and sold marmalade for funds.

Birthday bench

The 70th anniversary of Toc H in Barrow-on-Humber has been commemorated by the local branch giving a bench to the village.

A friendly place

The Society of Friends (the Quakers), who needed a place to meet in Weymouth, have found a home at the Toc H Hall in Old Parish Lane.

Sunny outlook

A giant sun clock has been built outside the Toc H building in Cosby, Leicester, thanks to money raised by the village's Women's Institute which held coffee mornings, bric-a-brac sales, and raffles. The clock, set into the lawn, works as a massive sundial.

Memory music

The music of Louis Armstrong, Humphrey Lyttelton, Geraldo, Henry Hall and Joe Loss were recalled when the Toc H Gloucester branch spent a nostalgic evening discussing dance and swing music of the 1930s and 40s, and asking what kind of music the young people of today will carry in their minds for the rest of their lives.

Contact us

Point 3 Editor is Sue Coffey who can be contacted via Central Services or emailed at info@zymo.co.uk tel 01274 841402. The next deadline is 14 November 2003.

The opinions expressed in this issue are not necessarily those of Toc H, and the Editor reserves the right to cut articles and letters.

Lamp is a living tribute

A large oak sculpture of the Toc H lamp, to be dedicated just prior to the Annual General Meeting on 13th September 2003, will be the centrepiece of a unique memorial garden.

The garden is part of the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield, a 150-acre site which is a living tribute to the people of the 20th century. The lamp is the work of Wrexham-based sculptor Jim Heath, (pictured on the front cover beginning work), and is eight times a life-size Toc H lamp.

The timetable for the dedication day is: 11am – arrival and coffee; 11.30am – dedication service; noon – lunch (numbers limited to 100); 1–4.30pm – Annual General Meeting. The Meeting will be held in the Arboretum's conference room.

Toc H has paid for the sculpture and the preparation of the site. Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to these costs should send their donation to Sally Courtney at Central Services, clearly marking the back of the cheque "Toc H Memorial Site".

£300,000 grant is all about caring

A £300,000 Lottery grant has been won by Toc H to help vulnerable youngsters in Cheshire.

The youngsters may be about to make a stressful move from a foster home into independent accommodation as they get to the age of 18. They may be looking for a job, or working for important examinations. If they have little or no family networks they will feel the need of support from a 'befriender'.

Toc H will use the money, awarded by the Community Fund, to run the Cheshire Mentoring Project. It will continue and widen Toc H's existing work - we already run a successful drop-in centre at Vale Royal - and will allow us to link into other networks and reinforce what others are doing.

It will help train volunteers across the county to become mentors to young people who need a friend and guide.

The mentoring does not replace input from social workers who have an important statutory role when children are in care, or possibly at risk of re-offending. While social workers

carry out the legal duties required under childcare legislation, mentors will give additional support which is not the role of the local authority.

Toc H has been awarded the money after extensive research and collaboration with Cheshire County Council Social Services and the Youth Offending Service.

Toc H mentors will draw up personal action plans for every young person involved. These might include community activity, access to employment or training, leisure pursuits, voluntary work, and advice on getting help from other services.

Jenny Banks, Director of the inTOUCH programme, says: "It is testimony to the community of Vale Royal who have embraced Toc H that we have now reached a point where Cheshire will benefit from what Toc H has to offer."

The grant will also make possible the appointment of four new full-time staff - a project manager, two full-time project co-ordinators and an administration worker.

Why we welcome strangers

Standing in the queue in Lidl in Bedford recently I met a young couple. They were pushing a trolley with their weekly family shopping. I only had a few items. They invited me to move forward in the queue. Old fashioned values in a supermarket in Bedford.

They were asylum seekers.

In the recent local council elections a British National Party candidate was elected as local councillor. The reason for his election success was fear of asylum seekers 'ruining the country'. This result happened in a prosperous community in the South East of England where 200,000 new homes are about to be built.

It is true that there has been an increase in the number of those seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. The rapidly changing political environment together with conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, the continuing situation in Palestine and the deterioration of the political climate in Zimbabwe mean a continual revisiting of the framework of support for new refugees and asylum seekers.

Truth

As usual when hysteria and prejudice take over the first victim is truth.

A recent opinion poll reported in the Independent suggests that the public believe that the UK hosts about a quarter of the worlds refugee population. The real figure is just less than 2%.

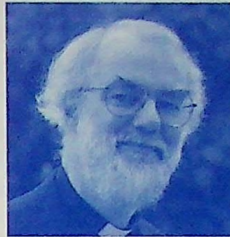
Again there is a belief that asylum seekers receive some £115 in benefits every week. The real figure is just over £35.

Yet another belief traded as a fact is that Britain is an easy touch and that everyone who arrives, by whatever means, gets to stay. The truth is that only 10% of applications are successful while 90% fail.

These are people who have lost their homes, their livelihoods, their countries and national identity, and often their families. They arrive, disorientated, dislocated and bewildered seeking asylum, a safe place where they can rebuild their shattered lives.

Britain is a country with a proud tradition of welcoming strangers and it remains true that those who come to make their home here

'Toc H relevant today'



The new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev Rowan Williams, has agreed to become a president of Toc H.

Williams, who was enthroned earlier this year, is following the tradition of previous archbishops in supporting the movement. Director Geoff Smith said: "It is wonderful news that Dr Williams has agreed to support us in

this way. We are pleased that the work we do both at home and abroad, and our many volunteers and helpers, have been honoured by his agreement to become a Toc H president."

The Archbishop said: "The work Toc H does among communities is a valuable contribution to social cohesion. The organisation is changing and adapting as society changes. Its work is as relevant today as it was at its foundation."

make a tremendous contribution to society.

Recently the head of a school in South London when asked about the difference asylum seekers made commented that if the asylum seeker children were removed his school would be hard



pressed to achieve the Governments educational attainment standards. This in a society that has a deeply-rooted social and economic tradition of welcoming newcomers. A tradition which is itself biblically based. As we are told in Deuteronomy: 'Do justice to strangers because you were once strangers in Egypt'.

How should the Church minister to refugees and asylum seekers?

In the Refugee Day Centre in Croydon Toc H staff and volunteers spend time

listening as they offer hospitality, neighbourliness and a friendly welcome.

Current Government policy and attitudes adopted in the press have caused deep pain and hurt to those who have sought refuge in this country.

Pain

Far from 'ruining the country' asylum seekers bring enrichment and the possibility of renewal in an increasingly diverse society. As such our posture should be one of:

- seeking to be poor with those who are poor, in order that we might become ourselves rich;
- offering hospitality, neighbourliness, friendliness and readiness for peace;
- being prepared to seek the forgiveness of those we have wronged whilst continuing to expose injustice and as part of our ministry to asylum seekers and refugees;
- continuing to name what is wrong as wrong and what is unjust as unjust.

Geoff Smith

Geoff Smith
Director, Toc H

From 'Welcoming Strangers', A sermon for the Refugee Day Centre Service, Croydon. June 22nd 2003

Volunteer empowerment: Members of the Y Action Toc H Group at Winsford on a winning streak - including three of their Millennium Volunteers, Gregg Halford and Gavin Dineley who have successfully completed 100 hours, and Jenny Baker who has completed 200 hours with the club. Jenny has also just completed her portfolio for the ASDAN CCV award, level two, and is the youngest to ever do so in Cheshire, possibly in the country.



How VOL:tag

VOL:tag, Toc H's Volunteering Programme, is really going that's official! Building on the foundation of Toc H's voluntary activities in branches and the residential events programme, new initiatives have been set to promote volunteering with a whole new audience.

Still forming the cornerstone of our VOL:tag Volunteering Programme is the network of community-based groups and the programme of short residential events. Following constitutional changes within Toc H over the past year, branches now stands at 102 in England, six in Scotland and Wales. Meanwhile, this year's programme of events includes more than 50 residential projects.

This is a solid foundation on which to build VOL:tag through the County Co-ordinator network, aimed at regenerating local volunteering. Toc H has a proud heritage of local people responding to local needs, with the values of Toc H in the Four Points at its heart.

The various training programmes that Toc H has used to prepare our members and volunteers for their value.

Cormac's recruitment

Toc H has appointed a Volunteering Development Officer to support its new regional structure. Cormac McCarthy has the challenge of recruiting volunteer co-ordinators for each county.

Some have more grass-roots activities than others, and these will be Cormac's priority areas. Although co-ordinators already operate in

New millennium hopes in Scotland

The work of Toc H in Scotland has been given a boost by the appointment of a development officer.

Michael Fass will spend the next six months reviewing current plans and devising new ones. He says: "We hope to take Toc H Scotland even further into the new Millennium."

Michael has a background in community economic development,

and has worked for 10 years in an area of high unemployment in Central Scotland. He worked with high schools and young people, established a 'Women into Business' initiative, and organised venture capital and training. He has done similar work in the UK, Europe and the Ukraine.

He was previously programme director of the Scottish Director Development

Centre, and for ten years, a director of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust. He is the current Chairman of the Industrial Christian Fellowship.

Michael says: "I very much welcome the opportunity to help Toc H, an organisation with a proud and important history, to flourish in the future. Toc H is changing for the better, and Scotland will be at the forefront of that change."

ag is going places!

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the community is being brought together in a programme within VOL:tag called "Developing People." To help drive this forward, we are delighted to have gained grant funding from the government's Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Worth £130,000 over three years, this will be used to employ a Community Leadership Development Officer/Trainer and will build on our Toc H/ASDAN Certificate in Community Volunteering.

Drawing on the experience of training and residential events programme, along with the learning and contacts made during the government-funded Citizenship Development project, Toc H has developed "Working Together For A Change." This is a short residential programme focussing on team building and citizenship awareness, demonstrating that ordinary people, working together, can bring about change and make a difference. It is intended to "sell" this programme, creating sustainable income for Toc H.

- A helpful calendar of voluntary events is "Supporting Community Action with Residential Volunteering Action" and latest news on events can be found on the Toc H website at www.toch.org.uk



Volunteer Programme Director:
John Dunwell.

ruitment challenge

ome parts of the country, recruiting
others will require a great deal of
contact with voluntary organisations.

Putting in place this nationwide
group of individuals will be Cormac's
main focus for the next 12 months.
Once all the counties have volunteer
co-ordinators, he will be maintaining
his new 'team' to ensure they
hemselves are able to recruit

volunteers for Toc H's grass-roots
projects. This will include co-
ordinating training activities.

Cormac comes to Toc H with a
wealth of experience in the
education and voluntary sectors. He
was a volunteer tutor in adult basic
skills in London before working as an
Adult Literacy Tutor for Lambeth
Community Education.

His most recent post, at Halesowen
College in the West Midlands, again
involved teaching and co-ordinating
adult basic skills projects. As a trainer
for Kensington and Chelsea's Basic
Employability Programme he taught
basic literacy, numeracy and job skills
to long-term unemployed people, and
co-ordinated work placements
through links with voluntary
organisations and employers.

and

- Former Scottish Region chairman, Mr Jimmy Beveridge died earlier this year, aged 87. He was a Toc H member for 35 years and chairman of the Scottish Region for over 20 years. A former miner, he was committed to the Toc H cause and was proud to wear a black blazer with a Toc H badge.



Cuddly volunteering: A little girl gives Teddy a cup of tea at the giant teddy bears' picnic run by Toc H volunteers at the Gateshead International Stadium in 2001.

Have you memories of the Dor Nap retreat?

Eighty-six-year-old Mrs Pricilla Joseph of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, does and she hopes that other people can share their reminiscences of the former Toc H retreat to include in her family memoirs. She is being helped by neighbours, Lionel and Margaret Powell, who are appealing for memories, information, pamphlets and particularly photographs.

Dor Nap (which is old English for "golden stone") was so named because of the distinctive mellow colour of the stone in that part of the Cotswolds. Mrs Joseph lived there before it was rented, after the war, by Toc H for a retreat and conference centre.

Lionel and Margaret Powell write: "After the Second World War a great deal of adjustment was needed by everyone. There, in the calm atmosphere, men met to revitalise themselves and the Toc H movement.

"Discussion groups met to talk of branch involvement in their local communities. Plans of projects to help the young and old, and how to raise funds and increase the membership were discussed. Even at that time there was a need to welcome a younger element into the

movement to add a new dimension to the work of Toc H groups. Did you stay at Dor Nap?"

If you can help, information or items should be sent to Lionel Powell at "Sharen", Downton Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2AX. Tel: 01453 82826. If you wish items to be returned, please make sure to include your name, address and telephone number.

Paper talent

Art tutor Jennifer Stevenson has been working alongside Toc H volunteers to run an arts project for adults - aged 18 to 90 - at Strathclyde University.

Twelve people from four centres for adults with learning difficulties in the city attended the course which involved creating people and animals from such everyday material as a roll of kitchen towel. Ten volunteers involved in the project came from all parts the UK, and also Poland and Belgium.

Jennifer said: "To make something like this, something you've made yourself and which you can hold, is very uplifting."

Looking good in Bulgaria

Toc H volunteers who are helping to rebuild a Bulgarian school have reported back that "things are looking good".

Anne Puddicombe, one of the taskforce leaders at the Dragodovana School, four miles away from Sophia, writes: "We have got the first part of our task completed and things are looking good.

"We had a game of football with the Bulgarians, which was fun although very

hot, and have mostly spent the day rubbing down window and door frames which are really beyond it as they have so many layers of paint, or holes in them.

"If we can make but a small difference to the lives of those who live in the school then it is worthwhile. Although in comparison with the west they have such a small income, the hospitality towards us is superb and we are slowly picking up the odd Bulgarian word. Everyone is well and enjoying the experience."

New members

A husband and wife who wanted to help their community, a retired secretary and a chaplain in the Territorial Army are among new members welcomed to Toc H. David and Christine Card, who live near Hillsborough, Sheffield, became members on the recommendation of friends. Jill Aspinall has been bringing her secretarial skills to good use as a volunteer with the Bewdley-based "Thumb-a-Lift" scheme which provides transport for people in rural areas, and Derby-based clergyman and TA chaplain, the Rev Stephen McCauley is also a welcome new addition to Toc H membership. The full list is:

Mo Powles Scott
South West

Olwen M Tailby
West Midlands

Jill M Aspinall
West Midlands

Lorraine Perkins
East Midlands

Stephen McCauley
East Midlands

Marjorie McCauley
South East

Eileen Bury
South East

Brenda Brindley
South East

Jean Graham
East Midlands

Dorothy Matthews
East Midlands

Tricia Walker
Yorkshire & Humber

David Austin Card
Yorkshire & Humber

Christine Card
Yorkshire & Humber

Kathleen Wells
Yorkshire & Humber

Mary Grant
East Midlands

Ida Tinsley
East Midlands

Kenneth John Webb
South West

Sue Moore
South West

Martin John Elliott
West Midlands

Have transport - we can travel!

Living in one of the most beautiful parts of the country might seem ideal - but not if you can't get out and about, and so become isolated in your home.

That's the problem Toc H is tackling in Worcestershire, where the 'Thumb-a-Lift' scheme provides volunteers using their own cars to help people with essential journeys.

Thumb-a-Lift's manager Vince Taylor says: "In North West Worcestershire, people living here are isolated out in the countryside, and even in the towns if they have no transport and

cannot get to the public services.

"Our volunteers collect them from their homes and take them to medical appointments, hospital visits, shops, Post Offices, hairdressers - anywhere we consider essential to maintain an acceptable quality of life.

"The drivers help in any way they can - carrying shopping, pushing wheelchairs, waiting at the hospital, guiding the blind, listening to problems.

"It's fun but it's hard work. It's a daily job to balance requests for help with

the volunteers available. And we have to balance the books, too. Without adequate funding we would have to curtail help for desperate passengers."

In this part of the country people associate Toc H not just with transport, but with our aim of helping disadvantaged people in their communities."

- The Thumb-a-Lift office is based in the heart of Bewdley, in the 17th century tower of St Anne's Church. Contact Vince Taylor 01299 405820.

Henry Edward Bedford
Crewkerne

Kathleen M Bose
Cheltenham

Eric Bramley
Mansfield Woodhouse

Leslie J Brooke
Avon District

Fred Glover Craig
Jedburgh

D V M De La Pryme
Elmstead

Trixie E Farley-Pettman
South West

Obituaries

John Henaghen
Hazel Grove

Alan P Lilly
London District

Joseph Arthur Pegg
Broughton Astley

Alice M Powell
Penn

Jessie J Taylor
Haywain District

Ronald Thompson
Jedburgh

Roy "Tommy" Tucker
Netherfield



Toc H staff enjoy a working break in the sunshine

Staff gathered for their annual working conference at the All Saints Pastoral Centre at London Colney near St Albans, taking time out to hear a presentation from Maggie Semple of The Experience Corps, to visit the London Central Mosque and Islamic Centre, and to see the Toc H East London Project. They also heard from Annelies Vermulen about the latest developments at Poperinge, where a

major extension will house a visitor and education centre. (Further details follow in a later issue of Point 3).

The staff are left to right:
Front row - Mukesh Varia, Channele Clarke-Thompson, Angus Anderson, Kate Green, Carol Tarvet, Chris Duncan
Back row - Tony McMullen, Francis Braganza, Mette Ofstad, Alex Boddy,

Lynn Gibson, Cormac McCarthy, Jo Eaton, Vince Taylor, Keith Crocker, Tracy Goodhead, Roger Cattermoul, Jenny Banks, Maureen Lord, Geoff Smith, Sally Simms, Sally Courtney, Irene Power, Anisah Islam, Margaret Williams, Margaret Winstanley, Maggie Gittleson, John Dunwell, Angela Gregory, Cath Helsby, Linda Hosty, Pennie Kennedy, Charmaine Odusina, Jennifer Fothergill



Superman Jimmy is Top of the Pops

The presence of genial, cigar-smoking, disc jockey Sir Jimmy Savile was a coup for Toc H Lea Valley branch which invited him to the annual disco where able-bodied people and those with special-needs all enjoy themselves.

The VIP guest turned up in the 'Superman' suit he first wore on Top of the Pops in 1976. Steve Smith, organiser of the 'Jimmy Savile Danceathon' which was held at the Cuffley Youth Club, Hertfordshire, said: "We were all thrilled that he came."

Fifty adults, aged between 18 and 60, plus 12 Toc H volunteers, met Sir Jimmy, who'd attended a similar dance in the Sixties. He has been a tireless campaigner to help people with special needs.

Sir Jimmy told Point 3: "I met Toc H many years ago and am very impressed with what you do. Three cheers to Toc H and its members. I know you will all keep going because you benefit so many people. You really are wonderful - but don't let it go to your head!"

Congratulations

Chairman of the Somerton branch, Wally Leach, and his wife Joan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this summer at Little Barns, Somerton, Somerset.

But this was a double celebration, as it was also Wally's 103rd birthday. Wally joined Toc H in 1929. He and Joan married in Uganda, where Wally was working for BELRA (now LEpra), the Leprosy Mission which Toc H has been involved with from the start.



Award winner

Eighteen-year-old Toc H volunteer Jennifer Cuthbertson of Sapcote, Leicestershire, helped to organise a group holiday for adults with disabilities as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

A reminder

No receipts will be issued by Central Services for money received by cheque unless you request one and enclose a stamped-addressed envelope. This helps to reduce administration costs.

Gift of sight

Hazel Grove branch, Cheshire, has collected 1,000 pairs of spectacles for Brazil and another 1,000 for Zambia, and are on their way to a further gift of sight. Collections started five years ago.